

verted into various forms or used for the preparation of soap, wax, biscuits and similar other articles, the gain would be immense. A professional man having thorough knowledge of the manufacture of those articles should be got down at Government and instruction should be imparted to the people. The import of cotton-goods to the State could be checked by affording facilities for the development of local weaving. There were many professional weavers and the quality of the goods they manufactured could be improved by imparting to them scientific knowledge in the industry by means of weaving classes. About three lakhs of rupees' worth of jaggery and molasses was being exported annually and five lakhs of rupees' worth of sugar imported every year. He thought that all the sugar required for consumption could be produced locally. He requested that the Government should render better help in the development of the sugar cane and jaggery industries. He advocated the desirability of affording additional facilities for the manufacture of salt, so that Travancore could depend upon home salt for consumption throughout the State. Tobacco cultivation in the State might also be started under the guidance of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

In conclusion, he referred to the technical scholarships offered by Government and he requested that, at the time of awarding scholarships, the claims of the Ezhavas should also be considered.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

V.—PUBLIC WORKS.

61. Reform of the Public Works Department.

Mr. M. K. Madhavan Pillai (Member, Karunagapalli taluk) said that the benefits accruing to the people were not proportionate to the increase of expenditure and the increase of staff in the Public Works Department. The department was first re-organised in 1071 and the Chief Engineer again proposed the re-organisation of the staff in 1079, but the Government did not sanction his proposals. The proposals were repeated in 1086 and the re-organisation of the staff was then sanctioned. In view of the completion of the Kodayar Project, the staff of the department, especially under temporary establishment, should have been considerably reduced, but on the other hand the number and pay of the officers and staff were increased in the re-organisation. He said that Engineers had not much clerical work but only supervision work, and the large clerical establishment for them was therefore unnecessary. The necessity for a full-time Executive Engineer for the supervision of the Kodayar Works was also not evident. An Assistant Engineer would do for it. Before the re-organisation of 1086, the Trivandrum Division Officer was assisting the Chief Engineer in the conduct of his office work. Now when there was an Executive and an Assistant Engineer attached to the Workshop, a Deputy Chief Engineer was quite unnecessary. He also said that the pay of the Deputy Chief Engineer was very high, as compared with that of many other important officers in the State. The cost on establishment in the department should not be compared to that in British India, because, in British India, the department was concerned with the important works alone, the minor works being executed by the local bodies, whereas in Travancore, even minor works were attended to by the department. The cost of the establishment was higher in Travancore than in other Native States.

The Member doubted the propriety of spending large sums annually on tools and plant, when there was a well-manned workshop in the department.

He then complained that contracts for the execution of public works were generally given to foreigners, and said that the practice should be stopped and contracts given to the natives of the country as far as possible.

Coming to the question of estimates, he said that they were far in excess of the actual requirements and that it would be evident from the fact that contractors often sub-let their contracts in succession and even the last man who did the work had his share of profit. He attributed the evil to the absence of any professional check in the Huzur Office. The estimates sanctioned often contained mistakes of omission and

commission, which escaped attention in the Huzur for want of a professional Office. He therefore urged the need for appointing an Engineer-Secretary in the Huzur Office. He next complained that, for ordinary works, the department used to submit three estimates, the cost being greater in the supplemental estimates and still greater in the final memo of costs.

He next said that, as far as Central Travancore was concerned, he was certain that the maintenance of the village roads was not in the least beneficial to the people, because no money was actually spent on the roads. He advocated the desirability of discontinuing the maintenance of village roads and applying the savings for converting a few of them into cart-roads gradually.

He then pressed on the attention of the Government the question of the establishment of taluk and village boards and the desirability of entrusting those boards with a good portion of the minor works now executed by the Public Works Department, together with the funds allotted for such works.

The Member proposed that the whole State might be divided into five P. W. Divisions: viz. from Cape Comorin to Neyyattinkara, including the Kodayar Works, one division; from Neyyattinkara to Attungal, including the Trivandrum town, one division; from Attungal to Kettayam, with the head-quarters at Mavelikara, one division; and the remaining portion, one division. The fifth division would be the Workshop Division. He thought that the canals might be placed under the Workshop Engineer. The maistries of the department might also be made permanent.

In conclusion, the Member said that the prayer of the people of the Karunagapalli taluk for roads did not so far receive the attention of the Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

62. Some defects of the Public Works Department and suggestions for remedying the same.

Mr. P. C. Krishna Pillai (Member, Vaikam taluk) said that it was regrettable that the prayers of the Members for roads and bridges were refused on the ground of want of funds, while the cost on account of establishment in the department had been steadily increasing from Rs. 2,87,760 in 1085 to Rs. 4,64,588 in 1090. The staff in the department was capable of considerable reduction. The allotment on works was mainly devoted to the construction of costly buildings in the town. The provision in the estimates for a profit of 15% to the contractors who executed the works would give the Government some idea of the wastage of money. Costly works were erected by the department at certain places and the works turned out to be utterly useless for want of adequate knowledge of local conditions on the part of the officers concerned. He quoted the instance of the outlets to drain off the *Kad* from the Vaikam temple and the impure water from the temple tank, which were constructed at a cost of Rs. 25,000. The outlets were not in working order. The Member suggested that it would be better if the people of the locality were consulted before such works were constructed. He then said that the travellers' bungalow at Shertalay and the additional buildings proposed at Arukutti were unnecessary.

In conclusion, he said that the use of Portland cement had raised the cost of buildings and it might be replaced with advantage by timber from the State forests.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

63. The desirability of a change in the method of distributing the funds allotted to the Public Works Department.

Mr. P. Sankara Pillai (Member, Karunagapalli taluk) said that the annual allotment for the Public Works Department was not equitably distributed among the various taluks of the State. The people of Central and North Travancore were always complaining that they were not having useful public works constructed for them. He suggested that it was desirable to allot, for each taluk, amounts proportionate